

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend page 3 of the specification as filed by inserting the following text beginning on line 7:

“Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view of another vacuum pumping arrangement shown schematically.”

Please amend page 8, lines 19-23 to page 9, lines 1-3 of the specification as follows:

“In a modification of the embodiments described above (*See FIG. 7*), the molecular drag pumping mechanism 18 comprises more than one drag cylinder, or rotor, 62a, 62b (collectively 62) supported by the rotor blades 58 of the turbomolecular pumping mechanism 16. The As shown in FIG. 7, the turbo blades may therefore be provided with radially spaced annular rings to which are fixed respective drag pump rotors. With this arrangement, for example, if there are three drag pump rotors, there can be up to six parallel drag pump stages, with two parallel pumping paths radially inwardly and radially outwardly of each rotor.”